

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01

AID-05 SY-05 SCCT-01 /071 W
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P 231515Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

TO SECSTATE PRIORITY 1437

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL OPORTO

COMUSFORAZ

CINCLANT

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PONTA DELGADA 0164

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: CONTINUED VIOLENCE IN PONTA DELGADA

REF: PONTA DELGADA 0160

1. THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN IN THE AZORES IS ENDING WITH A WAVE OF DISTURBANCES AND VIOLENCE IN PONTA DELGADA. DURING THE NIGHT OF APRIL 22 A GROUP OF DEMONSTRATORS ATTACKED THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE PS, CDS AND HPPD. PROTESTING AGAINST PORTUGUESE PARTIES, THE GROUP BROKE WINDOWS AT

ALL THE PARTY HEADQUARTERS AND SANG THE ESPERITO SANTO HYMN, THE SONG OF FLA. EARLIER THE SAME GROUP ATTENDED THE HEAVILY GUARDED PCP RALLY,

WHERE THEY BROKE FURNITURE AND CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE THAT THE SCHEDULED SPEAKERS WERE UNABLE TO TALK. TWO WEAK BOMBS WERE ALSO SET OFF, ONE AT

THE SITE OF THE PCP RALLY AND THE OTHER, A MOLETOV COCKTAIL, AT THE RESIDENCE OF GENERAL ALTINO MAGALHAES. ALTHOUGH THE EXTREME WING OF FLA
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APPEARS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL DISTURBANCES AND BOMBS, SOME HERE BELIEVE

THAT THE FAR LEFT, TRYING TO CREATE CONFUSION, IS RESPONSIBLE. THERE
HAVE BEEN NO REPORTS OF ANY VIOLENCE ON THE OTHER ISLANDS.

2. COMMENT:

WE SUSPECT THAT FLA EXTREMISTS ARE INDEED RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WAVE OF
VIOLENCE IN SAO MIGUEL AND BELIEVE THAT THESE EXTREMISTS ARE MORE CON-

CERNED ABOUT INDEPENDENCE THAN THE ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.FOR MONTHS MODE-

RATES HERE HAVE BEEN SAYING RAPID APPROVAL OF THE STATUTE OF AUTONOMY
WAS NECESSARY TO PREVENT EXTREMISTS FROM EMPLOYING VIOLENCE. THERE WAS

GENERAL EXPECTATION HERE THAT THE STATUTE WOULD BE FINALLY APPROVED ON

APRIL 21. INSTEAD THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL RECOMMENDED A COURSE OF AC-

TION (REFTEL) WHICH WILL DELAY APPROVAL FOR AT LEAST ANOTHER WEEK. WE

BELIEVE IT WAS NO COINCIDENCE THAT THE WORST NIGHT OF VIOLENCE IN SAO
MIGUEL FOLLOWED THE COUNCIL'S ACTION. TO DATE NO ONE HAS BEEN ARRESTED

FOR ANY OF THE ACTS OF VIOLENCE IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS HERE AND WE
SUSPECT THE VIOLENCE WILL CONTINUE AFTER THE ELECTIONS UNLESS THE
PERPETRATORS ARE CAUGHT.

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